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LETTER DATED 11 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 11 March 1998 from His Excellency President Ange-Félix Patassé, President of the Central African Republic, addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of March 1998.

(Signed) Antonio Deinde FERNANDEZ
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

98-06190 (E) 120398

/...

Annex

[Original: French]

Letter dated 11 March 1998 from the President of the Central African Republic addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to inform you that, as he and I have agreed, President El Hadj Omar Bongo, Chairman of the International Mediation Committee, has decided to extend until 15 April 1998 the mandate of the Inter-African Mission to Monitor the Implementation of the Bangui Agreements (MISAB), to allow for a smooth transition between the Mission and the United Nations force.

Accordingly, I should like to request the Security Council to extend, for the last time, the validity of its resolution 1152 (1998) authorizing the conduct of this operation.

I fully share the concerns and endorse the recommendations of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his report of 23 February 1998 (S/1998/148), and earnestly hope that the Security Council will pronounce itself as soon as possible in favour of the establishment of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA).

In order to inform the Council members of the progress made in settling the Central African crisis, I should be grateful if you would circulate the report of the National Reconciliation Conference held recently in Bangui (see appendix) as a document of the Security Council.

I should like to express again my personal appreciation and that of the Central African people for the Security Council's determined and courageous action.

(Signed) Ange-Félix PATASSÉ

Appendix

[Original: French]

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION PACT

National Reconciliation Conference, held in Bangui
from 26 February to 5 March 1998

T e parties signatory to this Pact:

In view of the Constitution of 14 January 1995,

Noting the grave political and military crisis which shook the Central African Republic in 1996 and 1997,

Recognizing that this crisis nearly engulfed the entire country in chaos, which would have entailed incalculable consequences for the preservation of national unity and sovereignty,

Aware of the fact that the meeting on consensus-building and dialogue held in Bangui from 11 to 18 January 1997 rekindled the hopes of Central Africans that solutions to this crisis would be found,

Convinced of the commitment of the signatories to respect the conclusions of the Bangui Agreements and to strive to restore a genuine, lasting peace,

Gauging the seriousness of the socio-economic crisis, characterized by growing poverty, the breakdown of family and social ties, the decline in Central African purchasing power and food production and the emergence of famine and widespread malnutrition, which are sources of disturbances and social conflict,

Considering the upsurge of insecurity in Bangui and in the interior, owing to the proliferation of weapons and the phenomenon of highway banditry,

Convinced that only an effort by the entire national community, supported by the international community, can make it possible to find ways and means of restoring peace and security, a sine qua non of the effective resumption of socio-economic activities for peaceful, lasting development,

Considering the flagrant violation of human rights linked to political and military crises,

Noting the repeated violations of the commitments made by Central Africans to each other,

Convinced of the need to establish a definitive national reconciliation pact between all Central Africans so as to put an end to political, economic and social practices characterized by nepotism, tribalism, exclusion and poor governance,

Aware of the need to establish a Monitoring and Arbitration Committee responsible for settling any disputes that may arise from non-compliance with the provisions of this Pact,

In view of the relevant recommendations resulting from the work of the National Reconciliation Conference,

Have solemnly agreed as follows:

Article 1

The parties signatory to this Pact solemnly undertake to practise good governance, excluding nepotism, clanship, tribalism, political patronage and misappropriation of funds,

They also undertake to settle or help to settle, through dialogue and consensus-building, all disputes that may arise.

Article 2

The signatories solemnly undertake to use elections as the only legal means of access to government power and decide to ban the use of weapons and force as ways and means of access to government power. They renounce the use of the armed forces to destabilize a democratic regime and to sow terror in the hearts of the population in defiance of democratic principles, human rights and the national Constitution.

They strongly oppose all forms of dictatorship and call on the authorities to listen to the people and respect the rights of the minority.

Article 3

The signatories call on all Central Africans to unite in rebuilding the country, which has been destabilized politically and torn apart economically, culturally and socially.

Article 4

The parties signatory to this Pact undertake to launch a frontal attack on poverty, and to support the State in its quest for ways and means of restoring a sound national economy and equitably distributing resources, on the one hand and, on the other, in its efforts to improve the social sectors of education and health, while giving priority attention to the regular payment of wages, scholarships and pensions.

Article 5

The parties signatory to this Pact launch a strong appeal to the international community to assist the national and international forces of order in their sensitive mission to collect the weapons spread throughout the country and to restore order.

Article 6

The signatories undertake to work together to create the political, social and economic conditions necessary to prevent any violations of human rights.

Article 7

The parties signatory to this Pact decide to establish a Monitoring and Arbitration Committee to monitor the implementation of the undertakings set forth in this Pact and to serve as an arbitrator in any disputes that may arise.

They undertake to have recourse to the Committee in the case of non-compliance with the provisions of this Pact.

The composition, powers and functions of the Monitoring and Arbitration Committee are set forth as an annex to this Pact.

Article 8

The parties signatory to this Pact undertake to respect scrupulously the provisions contained therein.

DONE at Bangui on 5 March 1998

[Signed]

His Excellency Ange-Félix PATASSÉ
President of the Republic

Government

National Assembly

Judiciary

Armed Forces of the Central African Republic

Association of Mayors

Political arties

A P	Allia ce pour la démocratie et le p ogrès
DCAD	Carrefour démocratique centrafricain pour le développement
CN	Convention nationale
ELAN	Effort libéral en Afrique noire
FC	Forum Civique
FPP	Front patriotique pour le progrès
GILA-MND	Mouvement national pour le développement
MDD	Mouvement pour la démocratie et le développement
MLPC	Mouvement de libération du peuple centrafricain
MSCA	Mouvement socialiste centrafricain
PAD	Parti pour l'action et le développement
PARELI	Parti républicain libéral
PCD	Parti chrétien démocrate
PLD	Parti libéral démocrate
PRC	Parti républicain centrafricain
PSD	Parti social démocrate
MDI/PS	Mouvement pour la démocratie, l'indépendance et le progrès social
MESAN	Mouvement d'évolution sociale de l'Afrique noire
MESAN BOGANDA	Mouvement d'évolution sociale de l'Afrique noire/Barthélemy Boganda
MDRC	Mouvement pour la démocratie en république centrafricaine
MNR	Mouvement national pour le renouveau
MUD	Mouvement pour l'unité et le développement
RDC	Rassemblement démocratique centrafricaine

UDR	Union pour la démocratie et le renouveau panafricain
UDR/FK	Union démocratique républicaine/Fimi Kodro
UNDD	Union nationale pour la défense de la démocratie
UPR	Union pour la République
UPDES	Union du peuple pour le développement économique et sociale

Trade unions:

CNTC	Confédération nationale des travailleurs centrafricains
OSLP	Organisation des syndicats libres des secteurs public, parapublic et privé
Patronat	
USTC	Union syndicale des travailleurs centrafricains
USCC	Union syndicale des chargeurs centrafricains
UNTC	Union nationale des travailleurs centrafricains

Religious denominations:

AEEC	Association des églises évangéliques centrafricaines
Catholic Church	
CICA	Communauté islamique centrafricain

Human rights, justice and democracy:

ACAT	Association centrafricaine de lutte contre la torture et l'abolition de la peine de mort
AFJC	Association des femmes juristes de Centrafrique
GERDES	Groupement d'études et de recherches pour la démocratie et le développement economique et social
LCDH	Ligue centrafricaine des droits de l'homme
GRPS	Groupe de réflexion politique et sociale
LONDO	Levons-nous
MDDH	Mouvement pour la défense des droits de l'homme

GAMPCC	Groupe des artistes musiciens pour la promotion de la culture en Centrafrique
OCDH	Observatoire centrafricain des droits de l'homme
GRADDER	Groupe de réflexion et d'action pour la défense de la démocratie républicaine
CNDH	Commission nationale des droits de l'homme

National organizations:

OFCA	Organisation des femmes centrafricaines
KOLI-OUALI GALA	Hommes et femmes commerçants
FNEC	Fédération nationale des éleveurs centrafricains
Fed. BOUBA-NGUERE	Fédération des vendeurs ambulants
JEC	Jeunesse étudiante chrétiennes
FESCA	Fédération du Scoutisme centrafricain
USCA	Union scolaire centrafricaine
CNOSCA	Comité national olympique du sport centrafricain
ACCB	Association des commerçants centrafricains du bétail
ANEC	Association nationale des étudiants centrafricains
ONAPHA	Organisation nationale des personnes handicapées
UMCA	Union des musiciens centrafricains
AVIMUT	Association des victimes des mutineries
CIONGCA	Conseil inter-organisation non gouvernementale de Centrafrique
ANBC	Association nationale des bouchers centrafricains
FNCJ	Fédération nationale des clubs des jeunesses

Occupational organization:

UNPC	Union nationale du patronat centrafricain